

Remarks

In response to the Office Action marked Final and dated 2/01/05, applicants submit the following amendment and response. A request for continued examination is being co-filed herewith. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 34, 35 and 36 are currently pending; claims 35 and 36 being newly added. Claim 7 was previously canceled and claims 9-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added. For example, the amendment to claim 1 has support on page 25, lines 11 to 18. New claim 35 has support on page 29, lines 5 to 10.

The numbered paragraphs below correspond to the Examiner's numbered paragraphs in the office action.

1. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aida (U.S. Patent No. 6,235,099). Applicants submit that Aida does not include any teaching of a pigment derivative that is anionic and it simply does not imply that this could be the case. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Aida. Claim 2, 3, 6, 8, and 34 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reason. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 4 has been placed in independent form and claim 5 depends from claim 4.


Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims are all now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

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Respectfully submitted,



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